

Crossroads

THE MAGAZINE

May 1997



RACISM

Does It Exist At
Missouri Southern?

☐ Awarded First
Place by The
American
Scholastic Press
Association

Crossroads

THE MAGAZINE

May 1997

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Issue 2

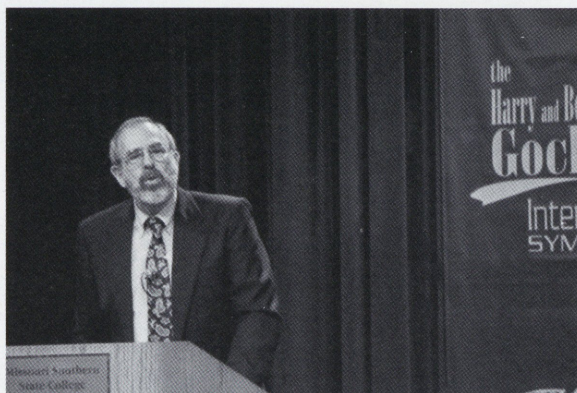
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By Andre Smith

Dear Readers,

Racism is a topic few people are comfortable discussing. We tend to put it in the back seats of our lives, hoping that it will not be brought to our attention that it still exists, but it does. And the staff of *Crossroads: The Magazine* wants to focus on this topic because we believe it will get things out in the open that have been bottled up for a long time.

It is a little easier to express thoughts on paper than it is to voice them. We are thankful that so many members of the Missouri Southern family decided to contribute articles with their thoughts on racism or race issues. We had a variety of writers from a variety of departments. We had traditional and non-traditional students, as well as faculty, contribute to what I think will be one of the most informative, heartfelt magazines ever done by *Crossroads: The Magazine*.

So let's not kid ourselves. Racism is a part of life whether we want to believe it or not. Someone walking behind you, driving next to you, shopping in the same aisle as you, eating lunch with you, or even educating you could be masking their racism with a polite smile. And you would never know.

Keep an open mind as you read through the magazine, and enjoy it. Also learn from it. If you have any comments or inquiries, direct them to Andre Smith, c/o *Crossroads: The Magazine*, Webster Hall Room 338.

Andre Smith
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Crossroads: The Magazine Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Andre Smith

MANAGING EDITOR
Joetta Wigger

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Rachel Deyo

PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR
Courtney Hulsey

SENIOR WRITER
Christy Yun

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Michelle Conty

ONLINE EDITOR
Nick Parker

**STAFF WRITERS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS**
Shelby Neely
Jennifer Rhea
John Smith
Kate Walters

SPECIAL THANKS:
McCann Printing, Debra Schow,
Deborah Soloman, Rick Rogers,
Ginny Dumond

ADVISER
Jean Campbell

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The Cast

Ye Royal Brass

Robert Vice, trumpet
Ray St. Ledger, trumpet
Tony Walters, trombone
Tom Porter, horn
Lyn McDonald, baritone

Ye Chamber Choir

Ladies
Amy Jo Etcheson
Monica Hilderbrand
Cassie Hombs
Beth Jones
Jennifer Kronkow
Kristy Kyser
Cherie Littlefield
Sara Michael
Monica Reynolds
Andrea Sapp
Kendra Smith
Hollie Townley
Karrie Wawrzyniak
Rebecca Wentworth
Sarah Wheeler
Amy Williams
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J.C. Harsh
Brandon Henderson
Brad Leighninger
Phil Mehrens
Gary Reaves
Justin Schoon
Justin Sifford

Madrigal Feast

And Other Courtly Pleasures

Courtney Hulsey • Photography Director

The Madrigal Feast. What a marvelous experience! If thou didn't attend, then thou must be a peasant.

An evening spent at the feast, put on by Missouri Southern's Music Department, was well spent.

Everyone who entered the court was properly greeted, announced, and then cheered on to their table.

Once seated, guests were treated to many songs by Ye Chamber Choir. Ye Royal Brass also joined in the musical festivity, and added sound effects whenever the time was fitting.

With the royal cider, cheese, and fruit being passed around, the guests were encouraged to sit back, unwind, and enjoy the mood.

Each table was appointed a table master who was in charge of attending their table. The

table master also had to do a fair amount of kissing up to Queen Brendella.

A feast of turkey limbs, bovine ribbeth, country corneth on the cobbeth, and princely potatoes was soon served. Since the Madrigal was set in Renaissance England during the time of William Shakespeare, no utensils were allowed. This created a messy predicament, but wiping wenches were always around for to wipe the hands of the feasting people.

The evening continued with dramatics and song. It was well worth the ticket price.

The script was written by Missouri Southern's own, Bud Clark. Clark also played the role of King Budward in the Madrigal. Susan Smith played the role of the queen and Brenda Clark played the queen in the Saturday production.

Ye Royal Courte

King Budward. Bud Clark
Queen Brendella. .Susan Smith, Brenda Clark (Sat.)
Lorde Chamberlyn. Kevin Baggerly
Ye Courte Jester. Todd Harmon
Ye Wine Wenche. Monica Reynolds
Ye Sooth Sayer. Andrea Sapp

Ye Executyoner Brandon Henderson
Father Abelham. Abel Stewart
Ye Royal Musician Milly Hanson
Ye Courte Wizard. James Cunningham
Ye Genie. Andy Adams
Ye Beggar. Lee Humphrey

Ye Chamber Choir



PHOTO BY COURTNEY HULSEY

The King and Queen



PHOTO BY COURTNEY HULSEY

Lifting their voices.



PHOTO BY COURTNEY HULSEY

Rachel Deyo • Assistant Editor

Kendria Weathers wants to be a pediatrician when

she is ready for a career. Thanks to the Hammon's Program, her dreams may not be too far for her to grasp.

Now a junior in high school, Weathers became a Hammon's Kid while in fifth grade.

"The kids were all chosen in elementary school," said Kelly Wilson, director of the Hammon's Program and assistant director of counseling at Missouri Southern. "They were nominated by teachers."

The idea was to make a selection of disadvantaged children who had the potential to succeed. That was one of the standards already set by the program's namesake, John Q. Hammons.

The funding for the program came from a sales tax placed on motels and hotels. The tax was later ruled invalid and returned to the businesses. Hammons, proprietor of Joplin's Holiday Inn, decided the hotel did not need the money and believed it should be used to help disadvantaged and minority children. He asked Missouri Southern to get involved.

Kelly Wilson invested the \$210,000 in an interest-bearing account, hoping it could be used to provide scholarships to the Hammon's Kids. In just one year, Wilson will get to see the benefits as Weathers and a few other Kids get ready to

enroll at Southern.

"I'd like to go to Southern and study nursing," said Weathers. "I want to be a pediatrician because I like kids."

Weathers believes the program has helped her to set and get closer to achieving goals. She has taken advantage of the afterschool program to get help with her homework.

"When you do a good job, like making a better grade, they congratulate you in a newsletter," said Weathers.

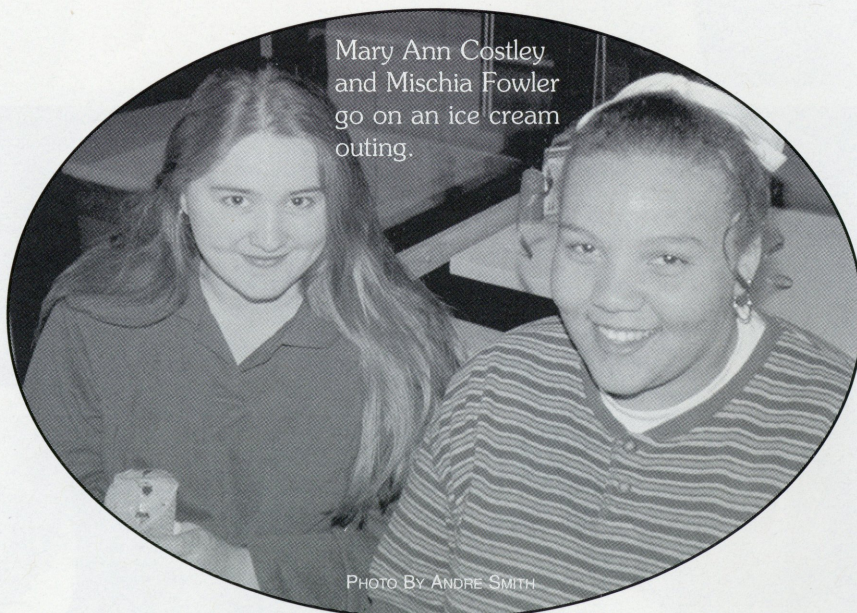
Wilson said that the children know their rights to an education and a future come with the responsibility to give back and study.

"It's not a given, they have to

earn it," she said. "They need encouragement and we create an environment that is supportive and conducive to learning."

The program started out with 45 kids, and is now down to 29. Many of the children have moved out of the school district where the Hammon's Program cannot reach them. Wilson would like to bring more children into the program, but she wants to make sure the program is successful first.

"We need sufficient time in order to see how far the money will go," she said. "We don't want to make promises we can't keep."



Mary Ann Costley and Mischia Fowler go on an ice cream outing.

PHOTO BY ANDRE SMITH

Relationships

Priceless Relationships

Shea Brit feels very strongly about her mentor in the Hammon's Program.

"She's like my big sister," said Brit, 15-years-old.

"I've had three different mentors, but Lisa is going to stay with me, even after she graduates," she said.

Lisa Ross, senior psychology major, has been a part of Brit's life for five years, and said she can't imagine leaving her at such an important time in her life.

"She has a lot going for her now," said Ross. "I want to share in her graduation."

Ross plans to attend graduate school in Tulsa two days a week and commute so that she will have plenty of time to share with Brit.

"I think I've had an impact on her life, but I know she had a great impact on me," said Ross. "She's made me more sensitive and appreciative of everything I have. She's really opened my eyes and I've enjoyed watching her grow up."

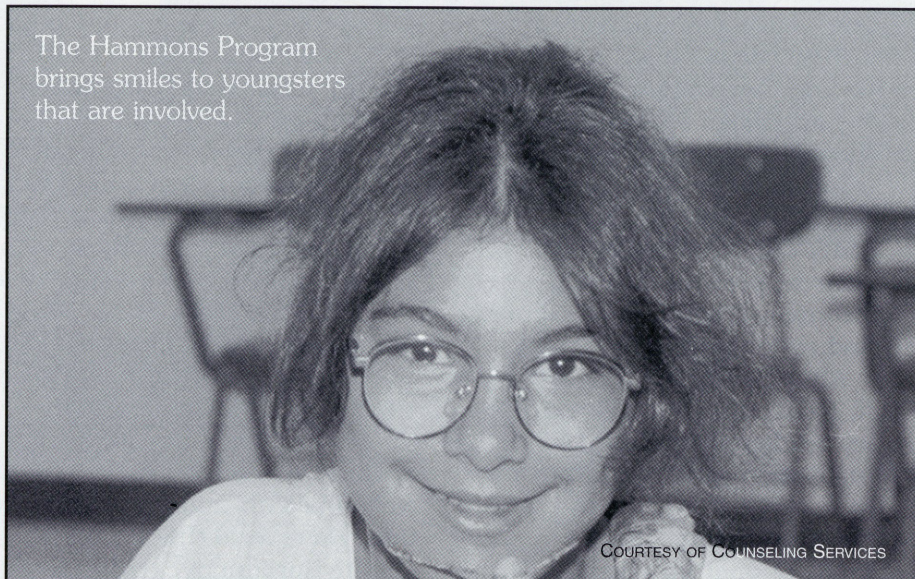
Brit says she sees Ross at least once a week. They go out to eat and go to movies together. Their favorite thing to do is spending time at Ross's house where they talk and play games.

"She makes me laugh," said Ross. "We have a wonderful time."

"She [Ross] gives me confidence, and I can call her anytime I need her," Brit said.

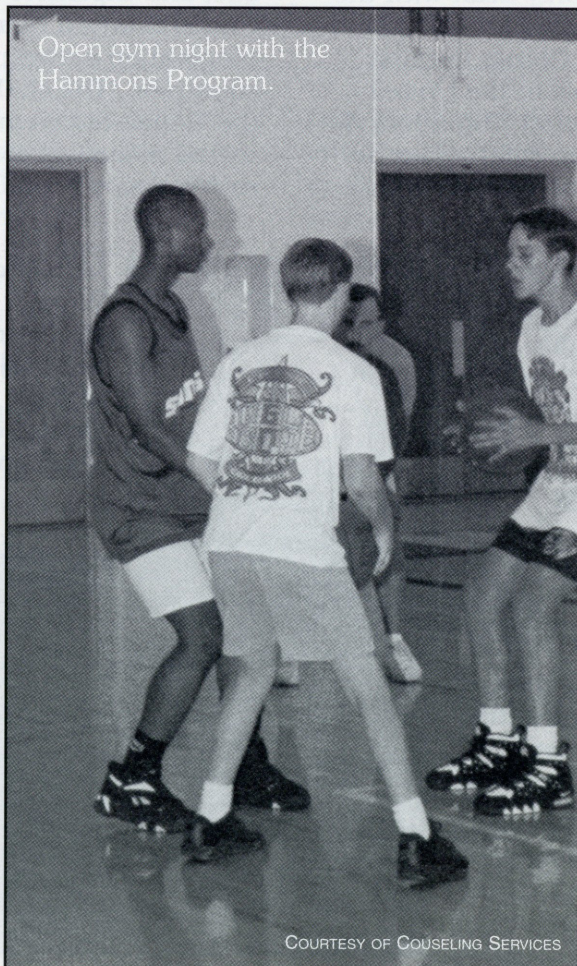
"Shea has a good head on her shoulders, and good values instilled by her mom," Ross said. "I like that she is a very strong person. It's good to see that in her."

The Hammons Program brings smiles to youngsters that are involved.



COURTESY OF COUNSELING SERVICES

Open gym night with the Hammons Program.



COURTESY OF COUNSELING SERVICES

Symposium Spreads Light

Joetta Wigger • Managing Editor

If you think that events happening in China are too far away to be concerned about, think again.

On the second night of the Harry and Berniece Gockel International Symposium on April 15, Richard Baum and Richard Haas made it clear that these events will affect the United States.

Baum, a professor of political science at the University of California, Los Angeles, talked about the background on what has been happening in the Hong Kong/China issue and added a personal perspective on what the effect will be on the people of China when the United Kingdom will restore Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China July 1, 1997.

"Hong Kong is the heart of the matter," Baum said. He reviewed points of the Joint Declaration, and Governor Christopher Patten's losing attempts at trying to make a democracy of Hong Kong.

"There is a misunderstanding on all sides," said Baum. "The situation is highly fluid and complex. No one is entirely right or wrong. It is not as simple as saying one is good and the other is evil. The Chinese have clearly violated human rights, but Britain did move the goal posts."

Baum went on to say that property and stock market are buoyant and that customers are happy with the economy.

Baum insisted that the people of China are not politically passive. They are society that is well-developed. The people participate actively, and economics

will not overpower politics.

They will remain balanced.

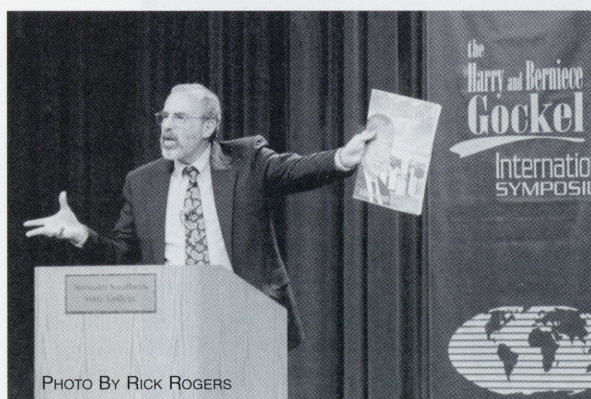
"The bottom line," said Baum, "is that the people see the change of sovereignty and they are preparing for the worst. They are not leaving. They have a wait-and-see attitude. The situation is not as clear as portrayed. It will require a great deal of calmness and rational thought."

After Baum finished, Richard N. Haas, director of foreign policy studies at Brookings Institution and consultant to NBC news, delivered the second message titled, "The International Dimensions of the Transfer."

Haas mainly dealt with the way the United States should act toward China. Because many people in the United States feel that China has violated human rights, they are against Hong Kong coming

under the government of China.

"The transition has actually already happened," said Haas. He went on to say that they are involved socially, economically, and politically to the point that when July 1 arrives, a huge difference will not be seen. It is in the interest of the United States not to isolate Hong Kong. Many Americans feel that they should isolate Hong Kong because of such issues as Chinese abortion and China's foreign policy dealing with programs of weapons with mass destruction. Haas feels this would be counter-productive. He believes that it would be costly, dangerous, and expensive for the United States if there was no cooperation between the two countries. "The challenge for the United States and China is to find a basis of cooperation," said Haas.



Left: Richard Baum
Professor of political science at the University of California-LA

Right: Leslie Gelb
President of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1993.



White Like Me

David Lynagh • Guest Writer

Initially, this article was intended to be a vehicle to voice my opinion of racism, however, I became more aware of a larger purpose: to tell the story of discrimination.

When my family moved to Hawaii, I was enrolled in the public school system. I discovered that I was unwelcome because of my skin color. Harassment, encounters with violence, and extortion for lunch money were commonplace. My education suffered, I made few friends, and I became a withdrawn child. When my family moved to Texas, my race again made it a struggle to make friends and similar things would happen in the hallways: harassment, verbal abuse, and random acts of violence.

As a young adult in this envi-

ronment, I saw what it did to my family, especially my father. He became a bitter racist who used racial motives and epithets. It gave me a deeper understanding for the situation of minorities. I say this because I am caucasian. The color of my skin identifies me as a member of the ruling class— but I don't feel like a part of it. I don't know that I ever have.

As a result of this perspective I choose to limit my relationships. Racism was one of the reasons I was forced to limit contact with my father. Also, friends and fellow employees who repeat their racial slurs have all found themselves snubbed.

Locally, I find whites concerned with the Mexicans and the Vietnamese; that they are too populous, that they take

jobs away from whites, in addition to other stereotypes. It is a disgrace that they are too ignorant to understand that whites are immigrants, just as much as the "foreigners". They seem to be ignorant of the fact that whites do not have any more rights than any other ethnic group, nor do whites have the right to dehumanize or marginalize other races.

Racism is an age-old dilemma, especially in the U.S. where our ethnic background is the result of slavery, war refugees, and immigration. How can we forget who we are and the simple fact that we all have to live here together? Our lives are intertwined in the fabric of life and the loss of variety would jeopardize everything.

Racism can hurt close relationships.

Point of View

Affirmative Action Stereotypes Opening Lines of Communication Equality

Al Cade • Guest Writer

We must open the lines of communication for understanding and address the barriers for the improvement in race relations to remain the leaders in Democracy.

As we approach a new millennium, the debate continues in all facets of society about the significance of race in America.

The term race is misleading because America is composed of a population where the majority is an admixture of the races. Ethnicity is a preferable term because it offers a sense of common origins, history, religion, and languages associated with culture. In society today people avoid discussion concerning race relations for fear of public scrutiny. Individuals who elect to assess the current issues facing race relations are often labeled with negative over-

tones.

By presenting the following opinions, I increase my chances of being labeled as an agitator or worse. My analysis of current race relations is influenced by my coming of age during the civil

deals with the leak, in time the leak will become worse.

With the dismantlement of Affirmative Action, our leak is slowly becoming a steady flow. It is no longer a surprise to read of major corporations and organizations being found to practice discrimination,

although they have advertised for years that they were in compliance with Affirmative Action Policies.

What is next on the agenda?

The Hopwood decision and Proposition 209 in California are currently on the books, although the debate continues. Many other institutions are now deliberating their courses of action.

For years our silence and practices of being reactive instead of proactive have led toward what many are predicting will be an inevitable confrontation. Being a minority and of African-American ethnicity, I am aware of the rhetoric that is growing



across the country and college campuses.

The tone of speech is becoming more aggressive. As our country is becoming more ethnically diverse than ever before, we need to find new ways to celebrate the diversity that has always been the strength of American society.

How can we possibly hope to improve race relations if we elect not to establish open discussion?

How many of us were part of the following scenarios? Being followed in a department store; Mistakenly identified as an athlete on scholarship; Because of your demeanor (clothes, speech, attitude) accused of being a gang banger; described as the black guy who looks like Jesse Jackson. These examples are common. We cannot, however, dwell on the past because of the significant shift in the sociological paradigm of the country, it is imperative that we must move on to the next steps. No, racism is often subtle, and yes, we still witness blatant incidents (church burning, re-zoning, affirmative action).

How many of us believe minorities receive equitable treatment? We must evaluate the attacks on Affirmative Action. Do not misinterpret my rhetoric. I do not agree with preferential treatment, but I do believe in equitable treatment and representation for under represented groups. Affirmative Action was an attempt to level the playing field, and now we are changing the rules at half-time.

Over the past decade, we have witnessed a resurgence of racism in the United States fueled by but not limited to the press, political representatives, and our silence. I define racism as an invalidation of people according to their ethnicity. Americans continue to group themselves by social roles according to race and socioeconomic status.

The media and politicians seem to encourage us to type minorities as criminals, welfare abusers, uneducable. Some politicians prey on the public fears because they are unwilling to relinquish power. To some I may be an exception to the

rule, but in reality millions of people of color are achieving and have the potential to achieve at high levels if given an equitable chance. Some who work with groups or communities to improve race relations define racism as prejudice plus power. Race relations will not improve until the political leaders and the public accept the reality that destinies of all races in this country are inextricably linked. We all are to have a voice in the future of America. Our silence is detrimental to improving race relations. We cannot honestly and with good conscience state no apparent problems exist. It still amazes me the silence that occurs when a discussion of race or ethnicity occurs. By being silent we are just as guilty as those labeled extremist, radicals, and racist. Our responsibility is to take the lead in discussions about improving the racial climate. It was 50 years ago that Jackie Robinson influenced race relations breaking through in major league baseball. Some Americans are still attempting to break through.

How many of us were a part of the following scenarios?

- Being followed in a department store.
- Mistakenly identified as an athlete on scholarship.
- Because of your demeanor (clothes, speech, attitude) accused of being a gang banger.
- Described as the Black guy who looks like Jesse Jackson.

Joetta Wigger • Managing Editor

True Love Has No Color

It seems as though more and more people are dating another race other than their own. Blacks are dating whites, whites are dating hispanics, Asians are dating blacks, hispanics are dating Asians, and the list goes on. I have never thought that there was anything wrong with people doing this, even though I was not exposed to many different cultures early in life.

As I was growing up, I never came into personal contact with many people who a different ethnic background than white. Even though I was never around many other ethnic groups, I never knew prejudice in my house. My parents are firm believers in people being treated equally, and never tolerated racial slurs or bigotry of any kind. Therefore, I could never understand why someone could be racist against someone or something that they really did not understand.

When I came to college, I met a variety of people from different backgrounds. I have become very good friends with people from other ethnic groups. I have found that they are different from me in certain aspects, such as culture. Though culture is the biggest difference and could be the hardest thing to overcome in a dating relationship, that is not what some people are skeptical about. They have a problem with skin color and the skin color only. I could be dating a British person and they would not have too much to say about it because we would look the same on the outside, even though our cultures would be totally different.

This is obvious when I walk through the mall or Wal-Mart with the black guy I am dating I notice I

get looks from people. These looks range from skeptical to surprised to disgusted. I know many of them are thinking, "They must be from Missouri Southern. There's always a lot of interracial dating over there."

That is true. There is a lot of interracial dating at Southern. So what? Just because we are not like these onlookers and have chosen to date a person from another race, does it make us wrong? The attitude these people have is wrong. If everyone dated only their race, we would not have the rich mix of cultures and ideas. We also wouldn't have the talented and influential people we have today such as Tiger Woods, Mariah Carey, Paula Abdul, Rosie Perez, or Dan O'Brien, just to name a few.

I know a lot of people think that I am dating a black man because he is black. That is the dumbest thing I have ever heard. I date the person, not the color. I don't believe in the

saying "Once you go black, you never go back."

My beliefs are important to me, so I want to date a Christian. I, of course, have to be attracted to him. I want him to have a good sense of humor, be able to make me laugh, be intelligent, have goals he is determined to achieve and stand strong in his beliefs. I don't have a preferred race. Still, some people seem to prefer a different race for me, even though they have nothing to do with me or my life. They are not dating him, so it shouldn't matter. Because they have a prejudice against interracial dating or a certain race, they are determined to let me know it. These are the kinds of people my parents and the parents of the guy I am dating worry about. My parents want to see me have the easiest life possible and not be hampered by other people's ignorance. Still, I am firm in my beliefs and will not allow the "rules of society" to

interfere with my decisions about my personal life. Especially if these rules are wrong. Though my parents still worry, they said they will trust me in my decisions. They pray that God will take care of me and achieve *His* will in my life—no one else's.

I do see a positive side in my situation. Most of the looks I get are from the older generation, the generation who grew up with racism and ignorance ruling the nation. I believe our generation is much more tolerant and open-minded. There will always be those who are prejudice, but many more will not be. It will be a long and hard struggle to achieve good race relations, but I believe we will get there. My father believes that someday, very far into the future, the races will be mixed so much that we will find ourselves not so diverse. We might actually have only one race. The human race.

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Hooked On

Ebonics

Doesn't Work For Me

Danell Watson • Guest Writer



bonics?
Are they
joking?
Why is
this such

a big issue? I find this educational hype to be a big slap in the face not only to me, but to the rest of the young black people in the United States. Ebonics is only used by the ignorant or the lazy, regardless of color.

"It is supposed to provide the teachers in our schools the ability to speak and understand Black English," claims Oakland, CA, superintendent of schools Carolyn Gettridge in the Jan. 27, 1997 issue of *Jet* magazine. (Gettridge is black.) Black English? This term is something that I do not seem to understand. Is this term implying that all blacks speak incorrectly and unintelligently? Like I said earlier, Ebonics is used by the ignorant and the lazy, no matter what color they are.

When I say ignorant, I do not mean stupid or dumb. The word "ignorant" basically means "not to be informed." Everyone is not informed about everything. Thus, if you are not exposed to something, such as quality education, you will not be able to speak efficiently and effectively. This is why I say ignorant. I believe that this so-called "language" dates back to the time of slavery when the

slaves had to find their own way of communicating.

Why would they try to teach the teachers how to speak this dialect? It is not as though these black students cannot understand what they are saying, and vice versa. Do blacks not go to the movies or watch television? They can understand standard English. Do teachers not deal with International students, and to other students from different regions of the United States where different slang is used? They aren't trying to teach these educators how to use slang from southern Louisiana, Maine, or Texas.

Laziness is another reason why this dialect is being considered as a second language. Due to peer pressure, some feel that they have to "talk black" just to fit in. This comes from the fear of sounding "white" and not being real. If you use correct grammar, you will not sound white, you will sound educated. This black English is merely a dialect or slang of the standard English. I do agree that Blacks have slang, but so do whites, Asians, Hispanics, and Indians. Slang, along with everything else in society, changes constantly. For this reason, lots of money will be wasted trying to catch up with the latest slang terms. Also, slang is different throughout the country, even in "Black

Ebonics

Standard English:

Where are you going?

Ebonic Dialect:

Where you goin'?

Standard English:

Why do you do that?

Ebonic Dialect:

Why you be doin' that?

Standard English:

Why does it have to be like that?

Ebonic Dialect:

Why it gotta be like that?

English." One reason a person talks the way he or she does depends on what part of the country he or she comes from. That is why I find this topic hard to swallow as a young,

educated, black male.

If this dialect is forced into the schools, it will only isolate blacks even more. We will end up going backwards. This is like a different form of segrega-

tion. These so-called educators are saying that no matter what educational background a black person comes from, he or she will speak another language.

Andre Smith • Editor In Chief

Not many folks know where Ebonics come from. Well, a long time ago on a plantation somewhere, black slaves wasn't allowed to be educated. They ain't know what proper grammar was.

So how on earth was they 'posed to communicate, 'cept but to make their own language. So, when slaves was brought over to America, this thang they call Ebonics became their "native" language.

Now they done gone and invented that rap music and everythin' got these chil'ren walking round not knowin' how to talk and got they pants all hangin' off they behind.

So how they come up wit' the name Ebonics? I reckon somebody figured that since Ebony mean black, somebody put that together with phonics and got Ebonics.

It sounds better 'un what 'em folks used to

call it - black English.

I still don't understandin why they makin' such a big fuss 'bout Ebonics anyway. If they want us to talk'in right, they should have taught it to them first slaves they brought over. We wouldn't have had to make our own language then.

That's alright though. I'm keepin' it real. Excuse me if I slipped and use incorrect grammar. Because our ancestors were not taught the laws of the English language does not mean we have to use the grammar they did.

We, unlike them, are privileged enough to be educated. There is nothing wrong with using slang, because 98% of the people in our country do. However, there is a time and a place for everything, and slang is just that- slang. It is not another language.



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City Segregation

Dan Shackleford • Guest Writer

The melting pot called the United States of America has not always been tolerant and accepting of racial diversity. In fact, its history is filled with fear, distrust, and outright hatred of persons who come from ethnic backgrounds other than the dominant social group. Wars have been fought, people devastated and nations destroyed all in the name of propriety and right. The concept of "manifest destiny" spelled the doom of many peoples indigenous to the Americas and conflict between racial groups has been nearly constant from the first landings to the present. How can this be in the "land of the free", where "all men are created equal", and all men have the opportunity for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"? This question weighs heavy on the minds of many as we view the prospect of a new century and a nation moving toward it filled with unrest and simmering racial tension.

The smoldering fires of intemperance fill the nights of our urban centers as young people of differing ethnic groups jockey for turf and position. Whites against blacks, blacks, against hispanics, hispanics against orientals, orientals against each other, and on and on it goes. Our cities are divided into neighborhoods, ethnic neighborhoods. We have Little Italy, Chinatown, Latino

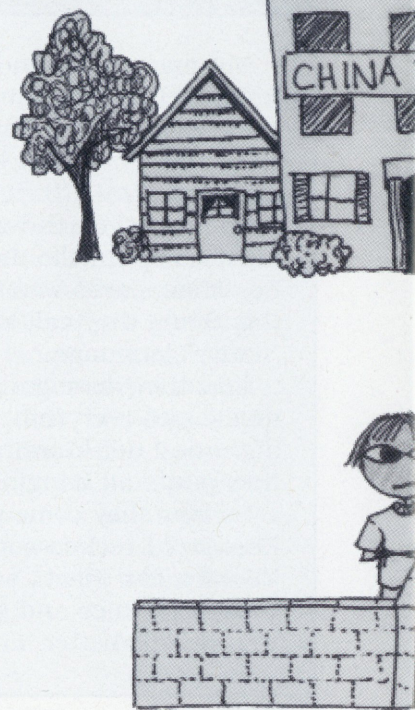
barrios, the Irish section, black communities, and honky neighborhoods all in the same city, and all battling for their "rights" as ethnic groups. Our rural areas are becoming separated into ethnic communities as well. German towns, Latin American villages, oriental communities, Indian settlements all racially different and often segregated. But why? Is it that we are so intolerant of each other that we cannot live together in peace?

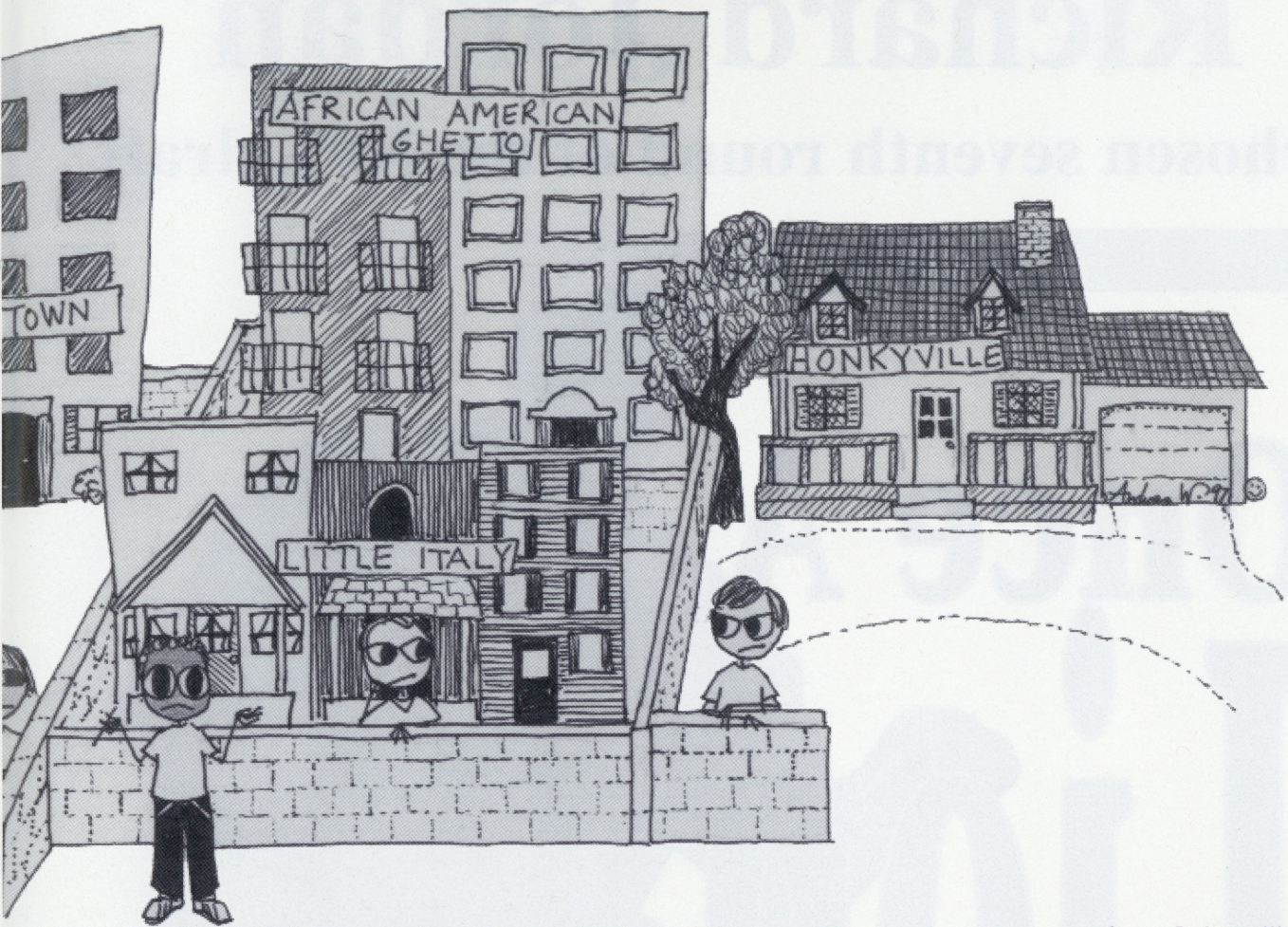
The answer is a resounding, "NO." The truth is that America is not so much a melting pot as a salad bowl. We are becoming a blended society. Each culture or racial group distinct but mixed with others of personal distinction. We are a nation, but more a nation of peoples. We live and breathe as Americans but as individual Americans. We are: African-Americans, Native Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, and yes, even white Americans. Our cultures are different our philosophies are unique, and our religions diverse, our ideals and mores personally significant and still we are Americans.

Does all of this mean we have found the utopian society where all men are truly equal? Unfortunately the answer to this question is "No" as well. As long as people rub shoulders together on a daily basis, there will be struggle for recognition and acceptance. There will be conflict; conflict over our dif-

ferences, conflict over our uniqueness, conflict over personalities. We are as different as we are alike. The stratum of our society are not just arrayed along racial lines, but social and fiscal. Our divisions are many, yet we can survive them, nay, overcome them. Just because lettuce and carrots are different, we don't toss one or the other from the salad based on their differences. Not everyone likes lettuce or carrots, but that does not make either of them less than the other or of less significance to the salad. I may not like everything about you, or you about me, but we are still of the same society.

Our tolerance of personal uniqueness is what makes us Americans. Sometimes we do it well, very well-yet more often we do it skimpily at best. We





GRAPHIC BY ANDREA WILKINSON

have a tendency to maximize instead of minimize. We focus on, rather than overlook. We separate, segregate, and ostracize, especially those things we do not understand or that are different from our norm. We act and react in a selfish or proprietary manner that begets tension, ignoring the rights of others. It is in our history, it is in our daily lives and still it is unjustifiable. It is adverse to the basic concepts of our nation.

When the truth is visualized, it highlights one of the darkest traits of mankind since pre-history, "man is afraid of difference". The things we do not know frighten us. The things we do not understand are unsettling. The things that are not of our personal realm are somehow dangerous, wrong, or of less importance or value;

that group is somehow different, therefore they must be evil or in the smallest sense, less important than we. This measuring of others is a part of us, and is usually manifest in a negative manner. It may not be a sense of survival, that the best and strongest deserve the greatest of opportunity for success, but it is certainly not the most human of our mental processes.

The pioneers dispossessed the Native American cultures. The plantation farmers enslaved African. The conquistadors devastated the Mexican Indians. The industrialists exploited the Chinese to build the railroads. The Christians hate the Jews. The British dislike the French. The whites oppress the blacks, reds, yellows, and browns. The rich abuse the poor, and on, and

on, and on it goes.

Race will always be an issue as long as there are races, and there will be races as long as there are people. We are genetically different and difference will continue- it is a scientific fact. How we deal with the differences is what the issue should actually focus on. Do not mistakenly believe that we have not made progress or that no one is making an effort at tolerance and acceptance. There is continual demonstration of people going to extreme lengths to touch and embrace their fellows, it is essential, however, that this endeavor persists and grows.

Who knows if harmony can be found. It is the effort to suppress our narrow perspective that counts for mankind.

Richard Jordan

chosen seventh round of the NFL draft

Andre L. Smith • Editor-In-Chief

Once A
Lion
Always A
Lion

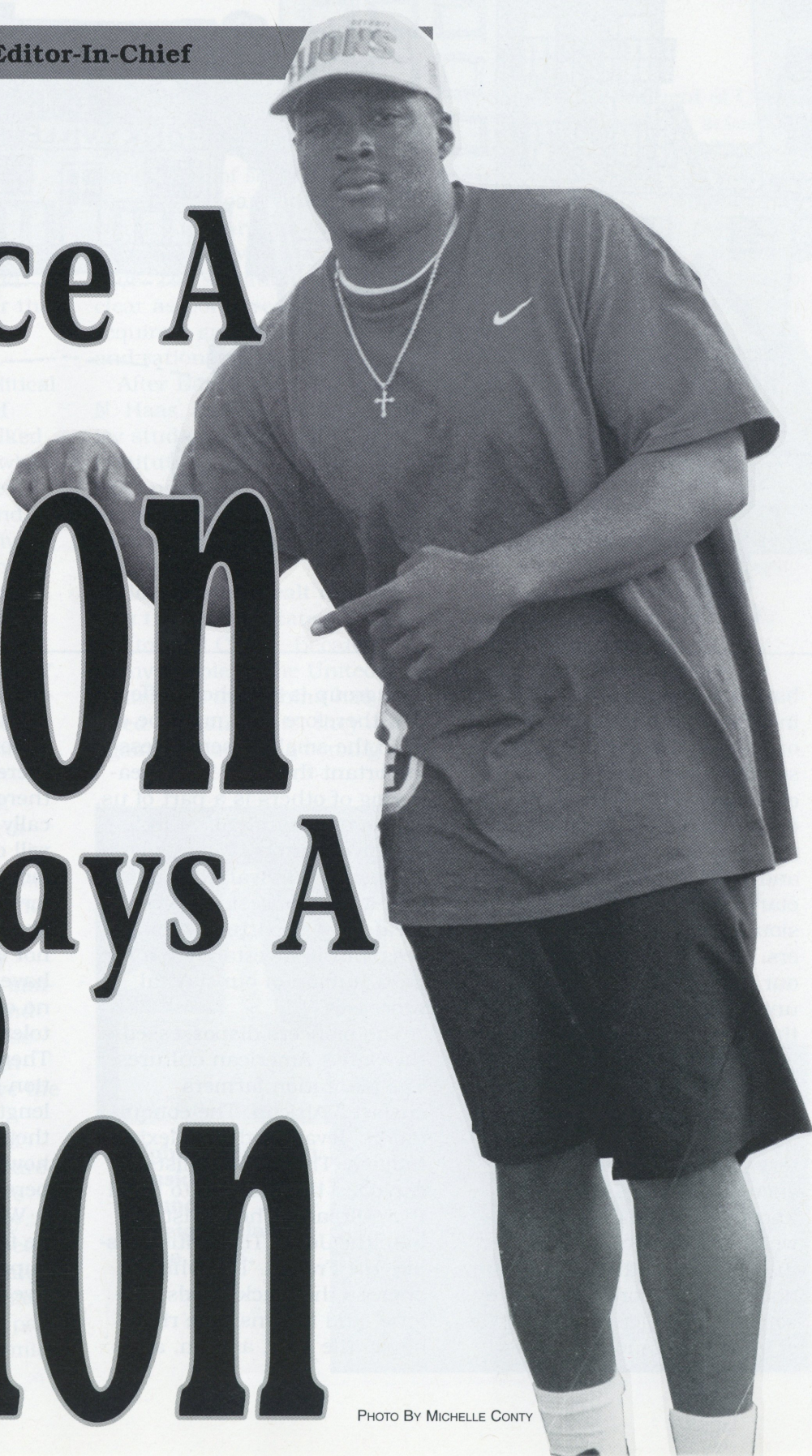


PHOTO BY MICHELLE CONTY

Detroit



Lions

He and his family sat there for several hours, listening for the phone to ring, eating barbecue, hoping that the name Richard Jordan would flash across the screen as the current selection of a National Football League team.

Two-hundred thirty-eight picks had gone by, and chances of making the NFL via the draft seemed dim.

"I had gotten calls all day from teams saying they wanted to take me as a free agent," said Jordan.

After seconds on food had been distributed, and several teams had called with their talks of free agency, the phone sounded off over the loudly blasted music at Jordan's home in Vian, Okla.

"Every time the phone rang, everyone got quiet and the music was turned down," he said. "When I got on the phone, I heard the voices of Bobby Ross (Detroit Lions' head coach), Gary Moser (Linebacker coach), and Russ Bolin (head scout). I asked them if they were another team that wanted to take me as a free agent, but they told me that they wanted to draft me."

The Lions were worried about the Baltimore Ravens choosing Jordan because they had two picks before the Lions could make their selection. While Jordan was on the phone with the Lions, the call waiting signal began to click continuously.

"They just kept telling me and my agent not to answer it,"

Jordan said. "I told them that I had to answer it. They said that they would throw in some Disney World tickets if I didn't answer it. That convinced me."

The few teams that were up for selection made their picks, and then Jordan heard the words that he thinks "every little kid wants to hear some day."

"Son, get by the TV," said Ross. "We're about to draft you."

As his name flashed across the screen as the current selection of the Detroit Lions, Jordan's family went "crazy".

"Man, my folks started jumping around and crying. My aunts, uncles, and cousins were all just trippin'," said Jordan. "I took a little victory lap around my neighborhood because I was so excited."

Jordan said it would take a little while before it really hit him that he was going to the NFL.

"The feeling is still overwhelming," he said. "I think it will hit me when I walk into the Silverdome."

Jordan left for mini-camp on Thursday, April 24, to go through a team physical and learn the Lions' system. He went through a two-a-day practice on Saturday, April 26, with the rest of the draft picks.

Jordan said that one of the biggest reasons he was drafted was because of his performance in the Snow Bowl game.

"I was selected Defensive MVP of the Snow Bowl game, and that boosted my stock," he said. "That was like the Combine for Division I. The scouts lined up with their clocks from start line

to finish line when we ran our forties. After that game, I had coaches and even agents calling me."

At the end of the 1996 season, Jordan began preparation for any tryouts he would have.

"I didn't want to get out of shape," he said. "I've kept my weight down around 250 pounds."

Most of the teams that scouted Jordan wanted him to stay within the 245 to 255 range. As a Detroit Lion, he will try to weigh 255.

Jordan wanted to take Missouri Southern with him to Detroit. He requested the jersey number 94, but NFL regulations require linebackers to wear a number in the 50's.

"I told them I wanted 56 or 51 if I couldn't have 94," he said. "Those are the numbers that L.T. (Lawrence Taylor) and Dick Butkus wore. They were two of the baddest linebackers to play the game, and that's what I plan to be."

Through all of the excitement, Jordan has taken time to meditate upon the fact that NFL players are much bigger and stronger than college players.

"This is where the real men play," said Jordan. "These aren't juniors or seniors in college. I'm going to do whatever I have to so I can impress the coaches up there."

Jordan said that his inspiration throughout his years in the NFL will be his two-year-old son.

"Going to the league could allow me to get my boy back," said Jordan. "I hope that he can move to Detroit with me."

Softball

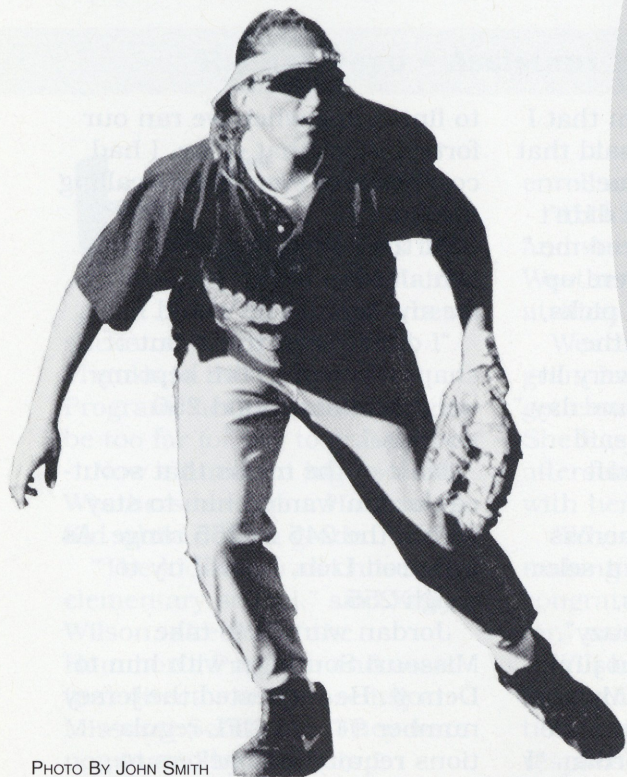


PHOTO BY JOHN SMITH

Christy Yun • Senior Writer

Q: How long have you played softball?

A: I started playing baseball when I was six. Then I played softball when I turned 10. I've played ever since, that would be about 15 years.

Q: How did you become interested in softball?

A: My parents used to take me to watch my older sisters tee-ball games, and I always begged them to play catch with me behind the stands. I was three- years-old at that time.

Q: What position do you play?

A: I've played every position except center field. In high school, I played short stop and pitcher. Now I play second base for Southern.

Q: What position do you like the most?

A: Since I made the move to second base, I think it is the most challenging and exciting position to play on the field. You don't have the pressures of being a pitcher or catcher ,but you have many responsibilities.

Q: As a second basemen, what does practice consist of?

A: Running, stretching, and warm-up with the rest of the team. I normally then go to my position for position work. We usually have batting practice everyday.

with

Jennifer
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Q: Do you see yourself playing after graduation?

A: Women's fast pitch softball is very limited in their opportunities. I personally would like to become a grad assistant to a college or university in order to gain experience as a coach. I would like to continue to play on a women's team during the summer. My dream is to try out for the women's Olympic softball team in the year 2000. Even if I don't make it, I can say I tried and won't have regrets.

Q: What awards and honors have you earned?

A: As a freshman, I was honored as "freshman of the year", first team all-conference, and all-regional tournament team. As a sophomore, I received first

team all-conference, second team all-region, all-regional tournament team, MIAA all-academic team, and was honored hitter of-the-week during the month of March 1997. None of these awards would be possible without the support of my coach, and the dedication and determination of my teammates while striving for the ultimate goal – success for the team.

Q: Have your parents influenced your softball career?

A: They have always been there, pushing me to strive to be the best. They are very supportive in all of my decisions. I can trust them to be supportive no matter what situation arises. If it weren't for them, I don't know if I would be the

person I am and accomplish the things I have.

Q: What else are you involved in at Southern?

A: I am an active member in PEHP Club and in FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). I'm also in the physical education and health promotion club. I became involved in FCA my freshman year, and as a sophomore, I accepted the love of God into my heart and life. I have realized that nothing is possible without the grace of God, and ultimately we are accountable only to him. Since FCA has led me to God, I have realized that no one can handle everything on their own, and we must accept help from others. This holds true for life and softball.



PHOTO BY JOHN SMITH

Southern's second basemen Jennifer Jimerson stands in position to tag out an MIAA opponent. Jimerson, a senior, made All-Conference in her final season as a Lady Lion.

Separating the **MEN** From the **Boys**



Andre L. Smith • Editor-In-Chief

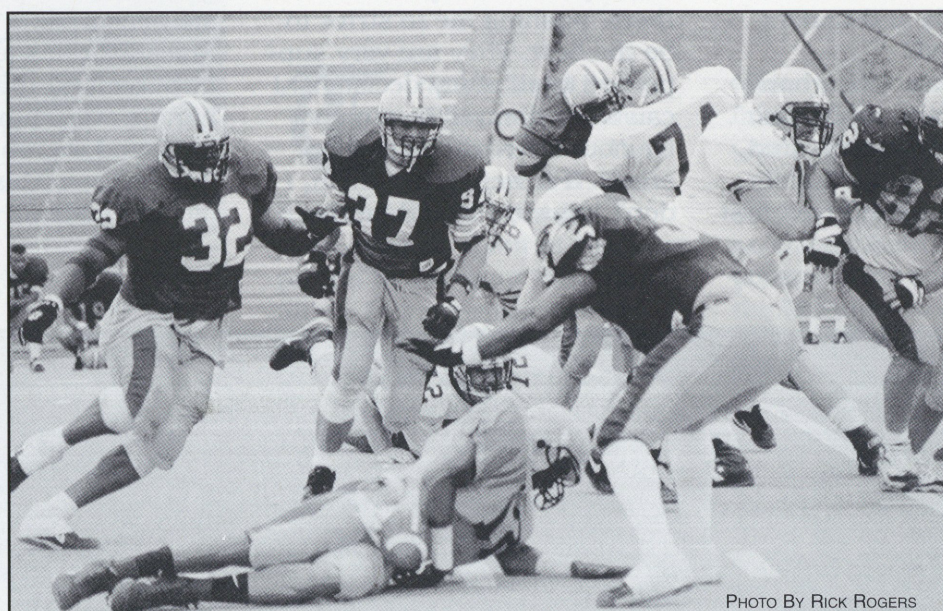


PHOTO BY RICK ROGERS

Sophomore quarterback Rodney McClure scored twice in the Spring game.

At the

end of the 1996 season, the Lions lost several key players and used the winter and spring programs to strengthen those that would take their places. The Lions lifted weights three days a week on a program designed by Assistant football coach Dan Scheible who runs the off season session.

Tuesday mornings were probably the toughest challenge for the Lions during the winter session as they exited their beds in the early hours of the morning for a 6:30 a.m. practice.

"Waking up that early was pretty hard," said Jason Owen, a junior offensive guard.

Cone jumps, step-ups, and change of direction drills topped the agenda on most Tuesday mornings. Agility drills were usually followed by full court sprints or interval jogging.

Thursday runs consisted of 100 yard, 60 yard, and 40 yard sprints on the turf of Fred Hughes Stadium.

The ten week winter ball program prepared the Lions for spring ball where they got to put on their pads and show their improvement.

"When you suit up after lifting for all that time, you feel a

lot more confident," said Owen. "We were all ready to hit and we got a little rough at times."

The Lions went through a three week spring ball session which prepared them for the final spring game held on April 26.

Rodney McClure played quarterback for the entire scrimmage so that coaches could take a look at him playing with both offenses.

McClure threw a touchdown pass to Ron Hensley and ran for one on a quarterback draw.

"Rodney really stepped up and showed us that we can win with him," said head coach Jon Lantz. "That's a good feeling to have going into next season."

The China Semester

Fall Sports Preview

College Life

In the Next Issue

of Crossroads: The Magazine

